

# *Influencing Culture*

*How the Cultural Mandate Empowers the Great Commission  
(And How it Can Make an Immediate Different in Your Sphere of Influence)*

A Small Group Series

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Study Guide: Week One

The Biblical Basis for Influencing Culture

# Group Response

## *Questions for Discussion*

1. Have you ever considered that involvement in culture is part of your discipleship responsibility? How have you viewed your relationship with culture in the past?
2. God's original "culture-making" command was Genesis 1:26-28: "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it." How do you think our culture-making responsibilities have expanded in the rest of the Bible?

As you wrestle with this, you might want to check out the following verses.

- Jeremiah 29:4-7
- Matthew 5:13-16
- Matthew 28:18-20

3. The capacity for creating culture stems from the theological idea of common grace. Common grace is God's grace that's available simply because we are human and made in his image. (For instance, we enjoy our five senses, the capacity for meaning, love, relationships and beauty.) What are some simple ways that we become instruments of God's common grace through involvement in culture?

As you wrestle with this, you could check out the following verses.

- Romans 12:14-15
- Romans 12:18
- Romans 12:21

4. Christian cultural influence seems to work best when people invest deeply on a local level, rather than striving to change cultural broadly. Examples of this include the following: Jesus investing heavily in Galilee, Paul investing in key cities in the ancient world (generally port cities and trade centers), and Jesus addressing cities in his letters to churches in Revelation.
  - What does local cultural influence mean to you?
  - What local cultures would you like to influence with God's common grace?
5. Think back on the history of the church or your personal experience. What attempts at cultural influence (by Christians) have turned you off? What attempts have excited you about your role at influencing culture?
6. Cultural influence has a price tag. Sometimes it can be very frustrating. Check out Titus 1:5, 12-13. What did Titus face at he attempted cultural influence on Crete?

## **Memory Verse – Genesis 1:26-27**

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

<sup>27</sup>God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

## **Next week**

We will examine patterns of cultural influence from the Old Testament and use these examples to consider how we might influence our culture in concrete ways.

## **Reading that will challenge you in the area of culture**

Ron Hall and Denver Moore – Same Kind of Different as Me: A Modern-Day Slave, an International Art Dealer and the Unlikely Woman Who Bound them Together

Read pages 1-64